

Independent Research and Development (IR&D) Program

IR&D is research and development conducted by industry on its own initiative without direct Government funding. The IR&D program enables eligible DoD contractors to recover a portion of their in-house independent R&D expenses through overhead payments on defense contracts.

The CERDEC RDEC has recognized the DoD IR&D program as an excellent technology leveraging opportunity. We have taken steps to try and capture this resource and integrate it into our mainstream technology programs.

We conduct focused Technology Interchange Meetings (TIMs) with industry on a regular basis, with a goal of hosting ten to twelve TIMs per year. The primary purpose is for industry to present their IR&D projects relevant to our technology needs and solicit constructive feedback from our engineers.

Technical Interchange Process is as follows:

The CERDEC IR&D Manager reviews a particular contractor's IR&D abstract to determine if there is applicability to CERDEC. If there is potential interest, the Manager arranges a preliminary meeting with the contractor to review the company's IR&D program, select potential projects/programs that should be presented, create a tentative agenda, and select a tentative date for a TIM. The preliminary meetings are held no less than 60 days prior to the planned TIM. The TIMs are held at CERDEC to maximize government attendance.

During the TIM, the contractor's portion of the meeting is to present a topical briefing on each of the previously selected projects and answer questions relating to the projects. The government's role (attendees) in the meeting is to provide perspective on Government needs for the IR&D programs presented as well as specific technical comments and feedback on individual projects.

Within seven to 14 days after the TIM, CERDEC IR&D Manager consolidates the comments of the Government attendees and prepares a feedback report to the company. The CERDEC IR&D Manager follows up on action items resulting from the IR&D TIMs.

TIMs are a win-win process; improving future business opportunities for industry by focusing technology development on CERDEC needs, and helping RDEC engineers/scientists identify emerging technologies important to future CERDEC systems.